

Westwood Community Church



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January 10, 2010

To: Everyone at WCC

From: Kathy Pruden, Celebrate Chair

Re: **2010 Lent Devotional Submission Request**

40 Days of Lent – “Lord, teach us to pray....”

Jesus said, “This is how you should pray:
“Father, may your name be kept holy.
May your Kingdom come soon.
Give us each day the food we need,
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And don't let us yield to temptation.”

Luke 11:1b-4 NLT

The 40 Days of Lent Devotional 2010 will be our third publication featuring submissions from individuals who are part of our Westwood Community Church family. The daily devotionals help us to prepare our hearts and minds to focus on of Christ's sacrifice for us as we approach Easter.

In order to have this years devotional ready for the beginning of Lent we need you to think about participating by writing a half page devotional (approximately 400 words) that would be included along with 39 other “home-grown” devotionals. Our emphasis this year is “Lord, teach us to pray”. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, we too ask Him to be our teacher. Jesus' model pray inspires us to focus on God, to look to His Kingdom, to ask for His provision, to seek His forgiveness, to help us to be forgiving, and to guard us from temptation. During our weekly corporate prayer ministry and our 24-Hour Pray Vigil, January 30-31, we will also spend time focusing on Christ's teaching on prayer.

As you gather your thoughts to write a Lent Devotional, consider how the Lord has worked through prayer in your life, how He has guided you to pray, what you have experienced through prayer, or how the Cross and Christ's sacrifice has impacted your prayer life. This is in no way an exhaustive list, I'm sure you have very special thoughts and experiences to add. Please be sure to include a scripture passage with your devotional thought.

If you are willing to prepare a devotional, or have questions, please contact Kathy at kathy@westwood.mb.ca or phone 888-1771.

Completed devotionals need to be submitted no later than **January 31, 2010** so the booklets can be ready for distribution prior to the commencement of Lent – February 17th.

Electronic submissions via email are preferred. However, hard copies are gratefully accepted as well.

For further reference on the 40 Days of Lent check out <http://www.cresourcei.org/cylent.html>. The following is an excerpt from this website.....

Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate God's marvellous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of **Lent** spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Lent is a way to place ourselves before God humbled, bringing in our hands no price whereby we can ourselves purchase our salvation. It is a way to confess our total inadequacy before God, to strip ourselves bare of all pretence to righteousness, to come before God in dust and ashes. It is a way to empty ourselves of our false pride, of our rationalizations that prevent us from seeing ourselves as needy creatures, of our "perfectionist" tendencies that blind us to the beam in our own eyes.

Through prayer that gives up self, we seek to open ourselves up before God, and to hear anew the call "Come unto me!" We seek to recognize and respond afresh to God's presence in our lives and in our world. We seek to place our needs, our fears, our failures, our hopes, our very lives in God's hands, again. And we seek by abandoning ourselves in Jesus' death to recognize again who God is, to allow His transforming grace to work in us once more, and to come to worship Him on Easter Sunday with a fresh victory and hope that goes beyond the new clothes, the Spring flowers, the happy music.